



P.O. Box 630  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 751-3076  
[acfa@mail.mda.state.mo.us](mailto:acfa@mail.mda.state.mo.us)  
[www.mda.state.mo.us](http://www.mda.state.mo.us)

Quarterly Report  
Fourth Quarter 2002

---

## **Animal Care Program Helps Rescue Neglected Dogs**

Inspectors with the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Care Facilities Act Program removed about 90 dogs from a Fenton kennel in November because of unsanitary conditions and inadequate care.

The inspectors worked with the Humane Society of Missouri and local law enforcement to remove the dogs from Guys 'N Dolls Kennels, Fenton, owned by Frank and Karen Wilson. The Humane Society of Missouri cared for the dogs until a disposition hearing could be held.

"It became apparent that the owners were incapable of making the necessary changes to properly provide for the animals under their care," said Dr. Jerry Eber, coordinator of the state's animal care program. "We believed it was in everyone's best interest to remove the dogs from the premise and secure care and treatment for them through the Humane Society of Missouri."

Eber said feces had collected in the dogs' pens, and there were signs of mice throughout the facility. Leaking water lines caused the dogs to be wet, leading to skin problems.

Eber said his office is taking action to revoke the kennel's license, and it is possible that local authorities will file charges of animal neglect.

Through the Animal Care Facilities Act Program, the agriculture department annually licenses and inspects facilities that provide care to dogs and works to ensure that animals in licensed facilities receive humane and adequate care.

## **ACFA Meets with USDA, Kansas Animal Health Staff**

Veterinarians and inspectors representing the United States Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Department of Animal Health, and the Missouri Department of Agriculture met during a two-day joint conference in October in Overland Park, KS to discuss uniform interpretation of standards and agency cooperation.

Interpretation of standards regarding rust, impervious surfaces, condition and site, wind and rain breaks, bedding, wire flooring, housing for dual purpose animals, space requirements, outdoor facilities, and ground substrate were shared to encourage consistency in inspection standards.

Joint inspections are another way to reinforce uniform standards. ACFA staff has been asked to conduct joint inspections with the USDA on a quarterly basis. In addition, Missouri and Kansas inspectors discussed cooperative efforts when tracking unlicensed activity regarding interstate movement of dogs and cats.

## **ACFA Advisory Board Meeting**

Approximately 25 people attended the ACFA advisory board meeting in December at the Columbia Ramada Inn.

Items on the agenda included the financial report, staff assignments, and current program activity. General discussion focused on ACFA regulation changes. Ronnie Praiswater gave a presentation on the ACFA program, the different classes of licensees, and the inspection process.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2003 from 1 to 5 pm at the Columbia Ramada Inn. All meetings are open to the public. The exact date, time, and location will be posted on the department's website, [www.mda.state.mo.us](http://www.mda.state.mo.us), prior to the next meeting.

## **Members of the ACFA Advisory Board**

The ACFA advisory board is made up of the following members:

(terms expiring 12/31/2004)

Anne Edwards (Professional Cat Breeders)  
Bonnie Schindler (Dealers/Brokers)  
George Harding (Animal Control)  
Rick Smith (Municipal Dog Pounds)  
Rene Ward (Animal Shelters)  
Dr. John Reinhold (Veterinarians)

(terms expiring 12/31/2003)

Lynne Walters (Commercial Breeders)  
Kay Kester-Oliver (Boarding Kennels)  
Karen Strange (Hobby/Show Breeders)  
Curt Ransom (Humane Organizations)  
Lane Craig (Pet Shops)  
Dr. Howard Pue (Dept. of Health)

The expiration dates listed in our third quarter 2002 report were incorrect. Please note the corrected dates listed above.

ACFA advisory board members are selected to serve for two-year terms. Applicants to replace those whose terms are expiring will be appointed before the next advisory meeting. To apply, please send a cover letter stating your interest and qualifications to Missouri Department of Agriculture, ACFA Program, PO Box 630, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0630.

## **ACFA Officers Await Word From USDA Exotic Newcastle Task Force**

Several ACFA staff members have volunteered to help the USDA with the Exotic Newcastle disease outbreak in southern California, near Los Angeles. Exotic Newcastle disease is a contagious and lethal disease of birds and poultry that can cause mortality rates of almost 100 percent in unvaccinated flocks. The USDA has quarantined a handful of counties affected by the outbreak.

Dr. Taylor Woods, Missouri's state veterinarian, has been in contact with USDA to coordinate efforts that would allow inspectors to take part in the eradication task force if federal funds become available.

A similar task force was established in Harrisonburg, Va., this past summer and was successful in eradicating two low-pathogenic strains of avian influenza. ACFA sent one inspector to Virginia to help with the eradication.

## **Frequently Asked Question:**

### **How do I file a complaint with the ACFA program?**

*Our office receives inquiries about licensed and unlicensed entities on a regular basis. We hope the following information may clarify the process.*

First, call the ACFA office at (573) 751-3076 to request an inquiry form by fax or mail, or download the form from our website, [www.mda.state.mo.us](http://www.mda.state.mo.us).

We ask that you provide your name, details of the complaint, and any witnesses that may be able to provide information or substantiate the claim. Then, simply mail or FAX the completed form to our office.

Any written inquiries are screened. If it is determined that ACFA has no jurisdiction over the matter, our office will contact you to explain why. If it is determined that ACFA has some type of jurisdiction over the allegations, the report is forwarded to the inspector in that district. You should receive a report of the inspector's findings once the matter has been investigated.

To help us with our investigation, it is helpful if you include proof of advertising, records of sale, or pictures that are relevant to the investigation. Many people who file complaints wish to remain anonymous. It has been our experience that anonymous calls are largely unfounded. We cannot guarantee an investigation without talking with someone who can verify the allegations.

### **Census of ACFA Facilities**

*(As of November 4, 2002)*

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Commercial Breeders        | 1,288     |
| Commercial Kennels         | 37        |
| Boarding Kennels           | 121       |
| Dealer/Broker              | 94        |
| Pet Shops                  | 73        |
| Contract Kennels           | 17        |
| Exhibitors                 | 5         |
| Hobby/Show Licensed        | 27        |
| Hobby/Show Registered      | 254       |
| Animal Shelters            | 80        |
| Municipal Dog Pounds       | 210       |
| Pet Sitters                | 8         |
| Intermediate Handlers      | 7         |
| Rescues                    | 45        |
| Out-of-State (all classes) | <u>27</u> |
| Total                      | 2,293     |

### **Contact Us:**

[acfa@mail.mda.state.mo.us](mailto:acfa@mail.mda.state.mo.us)

Phone: (573)751-3076

Fax: (573)526-2059

### **Renewals Due in January**

ACFA license and registration renewals are due January 31, 2003.

Please help our program work more efficiently by renewing your license or registration before the deadline. If you misplaced or did not receive your licensing packet, please request a new one by calling (573) 751-3076.

### **State Budget Woes**

It appears that state spending will continue to remain tight this year.

While our program is mostly fee-funded, a significant portion of our funding comes from general revenue.

Considerations to meet spending constraints are currently under review. Employee training, meetings, travel expenses, equipment, and four 10-hour workdays are being evaluated at this time.

## **Continuing Education for Inspectors**

The ACFA program continues to foster employee development through vocational training.

Animal health officers John Cupps and Matt Rold attended an advanced photography course at the MU Law Enforcement Training Institute in October. The class' main focus was on digital cameras. Department of Agriculture personnel use photography as a part of routine documentation procedures.

Animal health officers Gary Jones and Matt Rold attended a Cruelty Investigations Level III class in November. Topics covered by the class included animal hoarders, USDA regulations, exotic animals, and large scale impoundments. Animal health officer Sabetha Purtle attended a Cruelty Investigations Level I class in December. Topics covered by the class included investigations, animal law, interview and interrogation, and rules of evidence. Cruelty classes are attended by animal care professionals from across the country and are accredited by the University of Missouri.

## **Compliance Activity**

We continue to designate certain cases as high priority and hope to follow them through to some form of resolution.

During the past quarter, ACFA staff helped in the removal of about 90 dogs from a commercial breeder in Fenton. ACFA officials also coordinated efforts with the Southeast Missouri Humane Society in the voluntary transfer of dogs from a site in Bollinger County. A possible hoarding situation that was being monitored in Moniteau County was turned over to the Humane Society of Missouri.

We are currently working with a licensed commercial breeder in Camden County to reduce the number of dogs to a manageable population. ACFA staff is also monitoring a situation in Adair County involving complaints against a local contract kennel; an unannounced visit by ACFA officials led to the discovery of a dead dog in one of the pens. A citizen inquiry has led to the discovery of an unlicensed site in Dallas County. As previously stated, we hope to follow these cases through to some form of resolution.

## **Counties with the Largest Numbers of ACFA Facilities**

What counties present the largest routine workload for our ACFA inspectors? The following counties have the most facilities licensed and registered with our program:

### **#1. Barry county (Southwest MO): 90 facilities**

*72 commercial breeders, 7 dealer/brokers, 4 hobby-show registered, et al.*

### **#2. Wright county (South Central MO): 77 facilities**

*67 commercial breeders, 4 hobby-show registered, 3 dealers/brokers, 3 dog pounds*

### **#3. St. Louis county (Eastern MO): 74 facilities**

*23 pet stores, 12 boarding kennels, 11 animal shelters, 7 pet sitters, 6 dog pounds, et al.*

### **#4. Newton county (Southwest MO): 57 facilities**

*41 commercial breeders, 5 hobby-show registered, 3 dealer/brokers, 2 dog pounds, et al.*

### **#5. Jackson county (Western MO): 52 facilities**

*11 pet stores, 9 hobby-show registered, 8 boarding kennels, 7 rescues, 7 dog pounds, et al.*